

Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board
Forest Service Report
October 14, 2011

The Forest Service continues to work closely with the BLM on all gathers and the final disposition of gathered horses and burros. The Forest Service has reimbursed the BLM for work associated with gathers, etc., and long-term care through a Memorandum of Understanding spelling out the reimbursement provisions. The Forest Service has been able to accomplish this through an efficient method authorized by Congress in the FY 2005 Consolidated Appropriations Act. Congress extended this authority through FY 2014. A new five-year Interagency Agreement between the Forest Service and BLM was signed in September 2011 that will promote continued cooperation between the two agencies.

2011 Statistics

Two hundred, twenty-three (223) wild horses and 68 wild burros were gathered from lands within or adjacent to seven Forest Service territories in fiscal year 2011. The territories were: Double A in Arizona (68 burros); Black Mountain in California (4 horses); Jicarilla in New Mexico (75 horses); Big Summit (6 horses) and Murderers Creek (60 horses) in Oregon; and North Hills (44 horses) in Utah.

One hundred and eight (108) horses from the Jicarilla Territory (Carson NF) were placed for adoption.

2012 Planned Gathers

The Forest Service has six territories with planned gathers and three territories adjoining BLM complex gathers in FY 2012. The six territories with planned gathers are: Double A in Arizona (25 burros); Jicarilla in New Mexico (365 horses); Big Summit (15 horses) and Murderer's Creek (50 horses) in Oregon; and Devils Garden (600 horses) and Big Bear (20 burros) in California. The three territories adjacent to BLM complexes with planned gathers and the expected reduction in population on NFS lands are: Monte Cristo (BLM Pancakes Complex, 198 horses); and Monitor and Stone Cabin (Saulsbury/Stone Cabin Complex, 54 horses) in Nevada.

HSUS Research Proposal

The Human Society of the United States (HSUS) is continuing a 3-5 year study of a remotely delivered one-treatment porcine zona pellucid (PZP) immunocontraceptive vaccine at Jarita Mesa Wild Horse Territory on the Carson National Forest in New Mexico. The Carson NF will support this study under a local partnership agreement.

Litigation

Cloud Foundation v. Kempthorn, CV 06-111-BLG-RFC.

Litigation to require the US Forest Service to expand the Pryor Mountain Herd Management Area is pending mediation in the 9th Circuit.

Cloud Foundation v. Salazar, 1:09-CV-1651

The Forest Service is a party to additional litigation in the Federal District Court associated with the Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Range. Reconstruction of the north boundary fence based on a Forest Service decision regarding resource management issues on National Forest System lands is the focus of this litigation. The fence was effective in preventing animal drift out of the Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Range during the summer of 2011.

Loren and Piper Stout v. U.S. Forest Service, Case 2:09-cv-00152-HA (D. OR) (Filed 2-5-2009)

Plaintiffs have filed suit against the US Forest Service alleging failure to comply with the National Forest Management Act (NFMA), Administrative Procedure Act (APA), and the Endangered Species Act (ESA) by allowing excess horses to remain in the Murderers Creek Wild Horse Territory. In March, 2011 the plaintiffs were granted partial summary judgment. The 2007 territory plan was remanded to the Forest Service. Consultation required by Section 7 of the ESA has been initiated with National Marine Fisheries Service. The Forest Service is on schedule to meet the court order regarding Section 7 Consultation. In September 2011 the plaintiff's filed a motion for summary judgment on the remaining claims. This motion includes a request for a court ordered reduction in the herd population to 60 animals prior to January 31, 2012.

WH&B Specialist Position in Reno

Thomas Frolli, Forest Wildlife and Rangeland Management Program leader for the Lassen National Forest in California began in the position in March 2011. Tom's duty location is in Sparks, Nevada at the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest Supervisor's Office. His contact information is as follows:

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